

III.—*Remarks on certain Species of the Corvidæ and Paradiseidæ, with a Description of an apparently new Species of Cyanocorax.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E. &c.

IN the lately published third volume of his 'Catalogue of Birds' (p. 317 *et seqq.*), Mr. Sharpe has acknowledged three species of the genus *Platylophus*, as follows :—*P. galericulatus* (Cuv.), from Java, with a jet-black plumage; *P. ardesiacus*, Cab., from the Malayan peninsula, with a slaty black plumage (back inclining to olive-brown, beneath slaty grey); and *P. coronatus* (Raffles), from Sumatra and Borneo, with a rufous-brown plumage. Cuvier (who evidently named the bird from Levaillant's figure) and Vieillot (who gave a short description of it in the same year, under Cuvier's name) apparently had never seen the species, and their type specimens, if existing, are not known. Having had occasion lately to investigate a portion of the Corvidæ, my attention was drawn to the specimens in the Paris Museum which served as the types of Lesson's *Vanga galericulata*, which he refers to Cuvier's *Garrulus galericulatus*, and the result of my examination is as follows :—There are two examples, representing male and female, both brought from Java by M. Diard in 1821. The male is in the black dress characteristic of *P. galericulatus*, Cuv., but is not in fully adult plumage, as I perceive by comparison with another male, also from Java, brought to the museum in 1861 by M. Steenstra. Lesson's bird has the greater coverts, primaries, and secondaries greyish brown on the outer webs, while this part in the adult is dark purplish brown. The back is also inclined to a greyish hue. In other respects it resembles M. Steenstra's adult specimen, though not quite so black in any part of its plumage.

The female of Lesson's example (so marked by its collector) has the wings and body rufous and the tail slaty black, and is in the style called *Lanius coronatus* by Raffles. Two young males in the museum from Malacca are intermediate between these type specimens, having rufous wings, a greyish back, and slate-grey beneath, and many of the feathers tipped with white. This is the style termed *P. ardesiacus* by Cabanis; but the ex-

amples are so evidently only young males of *P. galericulatus* that there could be no hesitation in deciding the point, even if the indication of their sex had not been given by the collector. In fact these five specimens present a complete graduation of plumage from that of the female to the adult male. It seems therefore very clear to my mind that there is only one species of *Platylophus*, viz. *P. galericulatus* (Cuv.), of which the so-called *P. coronatus* is the female, and *P. ardesiacus* and *P. malaccensis* of Cabanis are males in immature plumage. It will be noticed that among the specimens in Mr. Sharpe's possession there are no authenticated females of either *P. galericulatus* or *P. ardesiacus*, nor any males of *P. coronatus*, which, if there is only one species, would naturally be the case.

Among the specimens of *Cyanocorax* in the Paris Museum is one brought from the south of Sao Paulo, in Brazil, by M. Auguste St.-Hilaire, which differs conspicuously from other specimens in the colour of its plumage, and regarding which I have not been able to find any description or notice. It is not mentioned in Mr. Sharpe's Catalogue of the Corvidæ lately published. The specimen appears to be most nearly allied to *C. cæruleus*, having the same general distribution of colours, and is nearly of the same size. I propose to call it

CYANOCORAX INEXPECTATUS.

Head, throat, and breast blackish brown. Back, wings, and tail verditer-blue. Inner webs of primaries dark brown. Underparts greyish brown, with a shade of verditer in certain lights. Bill, feet, and tarsus black. Total length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing 8, tail $7\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus $1\frac{5}{8}$, bill on culmen $1\frac{3}{8}$.

This bird, when placed by the side of *C. cæruleus*, in the colour of its plumage, bears the same relation to that species as the *Cyanocitta yucatanica* does to the *C. beecheyi*, the verditer-blue forming a strong contrast to the rich dark cobalt-blue of *C. cæruleus*. It is probably not in full plumage, as there are indications that the underparts would be as bright a verditer-blue as are the wings and back. I am indebted to Prof. A. Milne-Edwards and M. Oustalet for facilities of investigating and describing this bird.

Mr. Sharpe has described (Cat. Birds, iii. p. 181) a bird from Aleya, on the south-eastern coast of New Guinea, as *Phonygama jamesi*, separating it from the *P. keraudreni*, from its having the general colour above and below burnished green instead of burnished steel-blue. I have had the opportunity, through the kindness of my friend Prof. Salvadori, of examining specimens of *P. keraudreni* from the Aru Islands, from Ramoi, on the west coast of New Guinea, opposite Salwatty, and from Yule Island, on the south-east coast of New Guinea, quite close to Aleya, whence came the so-called *P. jamesi*. These specimens, from such distant localities, are absolutely identical, except that the Yule-Island bird has less of the green gloss on the back than the others, and slightly more on the throat and breast. These variations are only such as are to be expected among examples of birds having a metallic plumage, and are at times carried to an extreme degree. I observed similar variations, when writing my monograph of the Paradiseidæ, in specimens of *P. keraudreni*, as I consider them, from Australia and New Guinea; for while the former are usually of a more green plumage, I have seen them with a purple gloss; and I consider it not improbable that a large series of these birds from contiguous localities would exhibit a graduation from the blue *P. keraudreni* to the green so-called *P. gouldi*. I am inclined, therefore, to consider that the *Phonygama jamesi* is not really distinct, Mr. Sharpe's type having possibly a little more green lustre on parts of its plumage than western New-Guinea specimens—although from the description I should think not, as it agrees perfectly with Beccari's Aru-Island bird, now before me.

I will add that I have compared the Yule-Island bird with Lesson's type of *P. keraudreni* from Dorey, and that, if there is any difference, Lesson's bird is a little more green upon the back, which would bring it nearer to *P. jamesi*, thus showing that these tints are not to be depended upon for specific characters; for if there are two species, Lesson's type ought to be the bluer.

The types of *Manucodia jobiensis* have been placed in my hands for examination by Prof. Salvadori. They represent, I

think, a distinct species, very close, it is true, to both *M. atra* and *M. chalybeata*, but exactly intermediate, and possessing characters of both species. In the texture of the feathers of the head, breast, and mantle, *M. jobiensis* is close to *M. chalybeata*; but in the rest of its plumage, and especially in the form of the bill, it resembles very closely *M. atra*. The culmen is compressed, and does not spread at the base as in *M. chalybeata*.

IV.—*Characters of a supposed new Species of South-American Thrush.* By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

(Plate I.)

TURDUS BRUNNEUS, sp. nov. (Plate I.)

The upper plumage is of a dark olive-brown, in some lights inclining to greenish; crown and sides of the head of a clearer brown; tail-feathers dark liver-brown, their shafts above are dark reddish brown, underneath they are whitish; quills dark brown on their inner webs, the outer the colour of the back; under wing-coverts pale cinnamon; chin and upper part of throat whitish, the centres of the feathers broadly marked with light brown; lower part of neck, breast, sides, and thighs of a light reddish brown; middle of abdomen and under tail-coverts whitish, the feathers of the latter edged with light brown; bill pale yellow; tarsi and toes light yellowish brown, claws yellow. Length (skin) 9 inches; wing $4\frac{5}{8}$, tail $4\frac{1}{8}$, tarsi 1, bill from front $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. Upper Amazons (*Hauxwell*).

Type in my collection.

[We have tried in vain to make this specimen, which Mr. Lawrence has sent to us for examination, fit some described species. It is perhaps nearest to *T. leucomelas*, but is of a darker brown, and has the chest washed with a strong tinge of the same colour. The under wing-coverts are of a deeper rufous, in which respect it approaches *T. albiventris*.—EDD.]